

Appln. No. 09/696,114
Amdt. dated September 16, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The May 21, 2003 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled, new claims are added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 74-93 are rejected under 35 USC 101. Claims 24-26, 29, 58 and 74-93 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112. Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13, 15-24, 27, 41, 42, 44, 45, 49-56, 59-93, 95-108, 110-117 and 119-123 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,233,684 (Stefik et al.). Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Stefik et al., in view of USP 6,131,162 (Yoshiura et al.). Claims 11, 12, 29-35, 37-39, 57, 58, 109 and 118 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Stefik et al. in view of USP 5,532,920 (Hartrick et al.). Claims 14 and 40 are rejected under 35 USC

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103 as being unpatentable over Stefik et al. in view of USP 5,278,904 (Servi). Claim 28 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Stefik et al. and Servi, and further in view of Yoshiura et al. Claims 43, 46-48, 82 and 105 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Stefik et al. in view of USP 5,901,067 (Kao et al.).

In response, claims 1-123 are cancelled and new claims 124-165 are added. New claims 124-165 comply with the requirements of 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112, and are patentable over the cited references for reasons set forth below, inter alia.

With regard to the rejection under 35 USC 101 the claims have been rewritten to change "the printer client system" to -- a print service station --.

That is, as disclosed at page 94 lines 7-12, the printer client 40 is installed at a location such as a convenience store or a library where a customer can utilize it freely. The printer client 40 is used as a print service station of a print service company (see page 96 lines 16-17 of the present application).

The book copying system of the present claimed invention as defined by claims 124 and 142 includes a data service system to supply electronic image data of a book through a network, and a

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print service station which is installed at various locations to provide printing services for a customer.

In the claimed book copying system, since the print service station is installed at a location where the print service station provides print service for a customer, the customer can input a print order and print a copy of an ordered book at the print service station. Then, the print order is sent from the print service station to the data service system through a network and, in return, the print service station receives electronic image data of the ordered book from the data service system and prints a copy of the ordered book based on the received image data (see page 94 lines 13-23 of the present application).

Further, in the present claimed invention defined by new independent claim 124, the data service system sets a data service charge for the image data of the ordered book and the print service station sets a print service charge for printing a copy of the ordered book.

That is, as disclosed at page 95 lines 11-14 of the present application, a copy charge (the reprinting charge) is calculated based on a data charge (the first charge information) established on the data service system (the service system 1 side) and a

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print service charge (the second charge information) is established at the print service station (the printer client 40 side).

The data service charge includes royalties relating to a copyright holder of a book, a charge for converting a book into image data and a service charge to supply image data (see page 96 lines 1-4 of the present application). The print service charge includes a charge for materials used to make a copy and a rental fee for the printer (see page 98 lines 5-8 of the present application).

As indicated above, in the present claimed invention the data service system and the print service station can set respective charges independent of the other. Accordingly, when plural print service stations are installed at different locations so as to conduct respective print services independently, each print service station sets a print service charge depending on its business policy (see page 100 lines 6-18 of the present application), and the data service system can request the data service charge for each print service station separately.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects the present invention under §102(e) as being anticipated by Stefik et al.

Stefik et al. teach a system for controlling the distribution and use of rendered digital work through watermarks as shown in Fig. 8 of the reference. However, Stefik et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest a print service station installed at a place where the print service station provides print service for a customer.

As shown in Fig. 1 of Stefik et al., the distributing system includes a repository, a master repository, an authoring repository and a rendering repository which are linked through a network. The rendering repository includes a printer repository and a printer device 95 shown in Fig. 3. In the distributing system of Stefik et al., as indicated in the flowchart shown in Fig. 5, when a repository 1 receives a request from a repository 2 for access to the digital work, the repository 1 transfers a copy of the digital work to the repository 2. When the repository 2 receives a user request to print the digital work, the repository 2 establishes a trusted session with a printer repository of the printing system and the printer repository transfers the digital work from the repository 2 to a printer.

As can be clearly understood from the above description, in Stefik et al., the printing system which includes the printer repository and the printer does not directly receive a print

order from a customer. Instead of the printing system, the repository 2 receives a print request from a customer and supplies the image data of an ordered book of the customer to the printing system.

As an example of the distributing system, in Fig. 16, Stefik et al. illustrate a positional relationship among a customer workstation, publisher and print store. As can be seen from this illustration, the customer sends a print order directly to the publisher and the print store does not receive the print order from the customer.

Further, in Stefik et al., as can be seen from Fig. 16, when a customer makes a print order, it is necessary to use a customer workstation. In other words, when a customer does not have a workstation, it is impossible to print a book from the publisher.

In contrast to Stefik et al., in the present claimed invention, a print service station is installed at a location such as a convenience store or a library. Therefore, a customer can make a print order without possessing a workstation which could not be done with the prior art systems.

Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 2, Stefik et al. merely teach a connection between the repository (101) of the work and a

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credit server (201). Stefik et al. teach nothing about the connection between the rendering repository (103) and the credit server (201).

Accordingly, Stefik et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest the book copying system of the present claimed invention as defined by claim 124 wherein the data service system sets a data service charge for the image data of the ordered book and the print service station sets a print service charge for the copy of the ordered book, and wherein the print service station prints a copy of the ordered book for a customer.

In a similar manner to new claim 124, new claim 142 recites that a book copying system includes a data service system to supply electronic image data of a book through a network and a print service station installed at a place where the print service station provides printing services for a customer.

In new claim 142, the print service station receives and inputs a print specification from a customer to print an ordered book. In order to deal with the print specification, at least one of the data service system and the print service station includes a data processing section to compile the image data in accordance with the print specification of the customer, the print service station controls a printing condition to print the compiled image

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data by the print section in accordance with the print specification and the book copying system determines a copy charge of the ordered book based on the print specification.

Stefik et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest a print service station to input a print specification of a customer to print an ordered book and the above structure to deal with the print specification as recited in new claim 142.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 124 and 142 are patentable over Stefik et al. under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

In the Office Action the Examiner cites Yoshiura et al. as teaching a system for securing data. New claims 124 and 142 are not directed to a system for securing data. Yoshiura et al. do not close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claims 124 and 142 and Stefik et al.

In the Office Action the Examiner cites Hartrick et al. as teaching a system for compensating content creators for the right to access digital works on a book or chapter basis. In Figs. 1 and 2 of Hartrick et al., a user work station similar to Stefik et al. is shown. Hartrick et al. teach applying a special soft copy book reading program at the work station. This is different

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from the print service station of the present claimed invention which receives a print order or a print specification.

The Examiner also cites Servi et al. as teaching a system for verifying a requestor. New claims 124 and 142 are not directed to a system for verifying a requestor. Servi et al. therefore do not close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claims 124 and 142 and Stefik et al.

The Examiner also cited Kao et al. as teaching a system for storing data corresponding to a rental fee. Figs. 2 and 5 of Kao et al. merely teach a rental fee payment system. New claims 124 and 142 are not directed to a rental fee payment system, and therefore Kao et al. do not close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claims 124 and 142 and Stefik et al.

In view of the foregoing, claims 124 and 142 and all claims which are dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references when taken either alone under 35 USC 102 or in a combination under 35 USC 103.

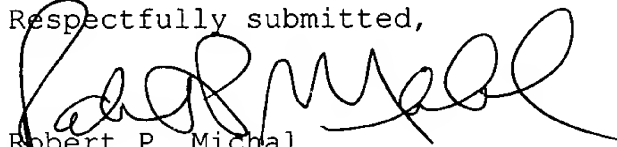
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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Michal', written over the typed name.

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